# Cable Operators Neutral Network Exchange for Community Transformation (CONNECT)

A EU-funded project implemented by UP-EEEI

http://connect.net.ph

### It's more fun in the Philippines

- The Philippines remain to be the social media capital of the world\*
  - 89M social media users (facebook, twitter,etc)
  - There were 152.4 million mobile connections in the Philippines in January 2021
- Social media fueling the economy
  - Democratizing information
  - Creating new jobs
  - Pushing brands and businesses to new heights



However, Internet penetration rates remain low as incumbent telcos are reluctant to invest in building wired infrastructure in areas with potentially poor returns

### Cable operators are powerful market forces

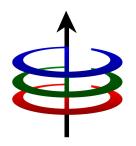
- Cable operators are well established in rural areas
  - Extensive wired infrastructure deployed in their respective service areas
- Many small cable operators have insufficient access to critical Internet resources
  - Competent human resources
  - Affordable upstream Internet services
  - Pole infrastructure in missionary areas





### We try to CONNECT!

- Cable Operator Neutral Network
   Exchange and Community Transformation
  - Asi@Connect-funded project implemented by UP-EEEI, DOST-ASTI, Central Luzon State U, and Telmarc Corporation
- Aims to empower both the cable operators and the communities they serve
  - Develop robust infrastructure for reliable Internet service
- Ongoing implementation until June 2021









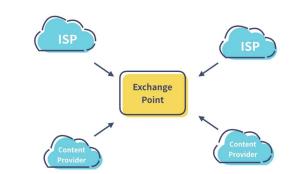


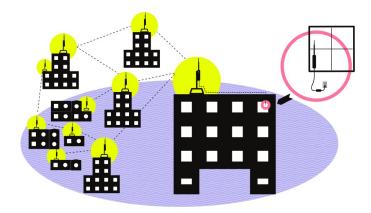




### Collaboration is key in narrowing the gap!

- Attempts to foster collaboration among cable operators
  - Organize technical forums on Internet service ops
  - Provide BGP trainings to cable operator groups
  - Establish neutral IXP for cable operators
  - Implement novel network services useful for the cable industry
  - Empower the community to build own wireless-based network access infrastructure





### Software-defined networking enables novel applications

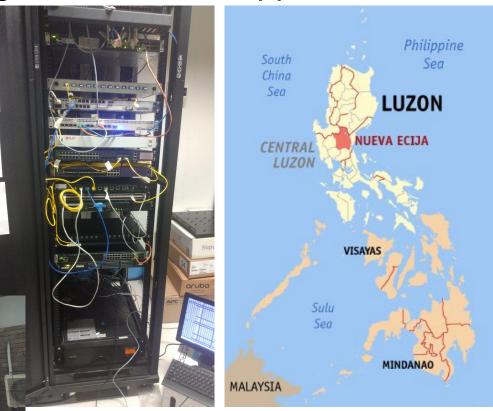
 Pilot testing an SDN-based Internet exchange point

> The Science City of Munoz Internet Exchange (SCIMIX)

 Strategically situated in Nueva Ecija, Philippines (CLSU campus)

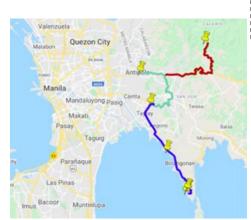
 Platform for developing novel IXP network applications

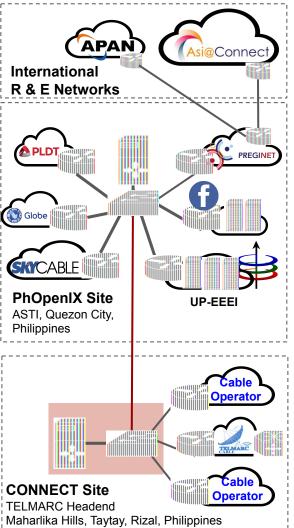
 Provides high-speed interconnection facility for research and educational institutions, and commercial providers operating in the region



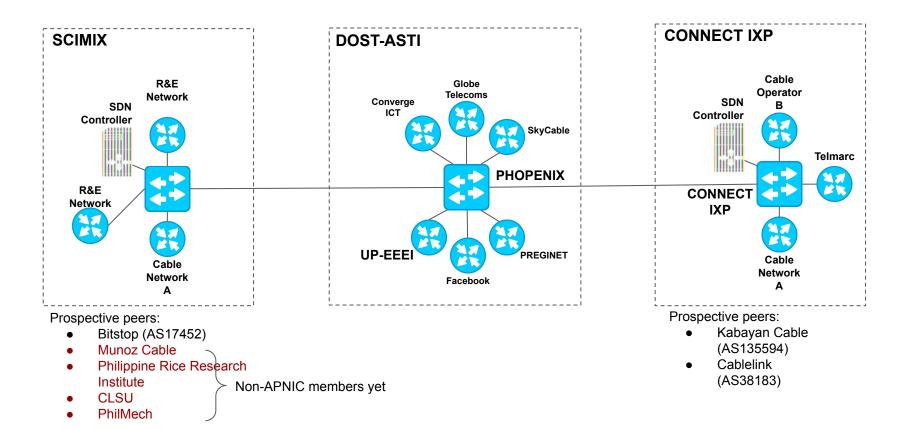
## Cable Operator IXP needs to be in a neutral location

- CONNECT IXP located in Telmarc's headend office
  - Leverage existing points of presence
     (PoPs) of various cable operators
  - Will provide members access to PHOpenIX content in DOST-ASTI
  - Peers already are APNIC members

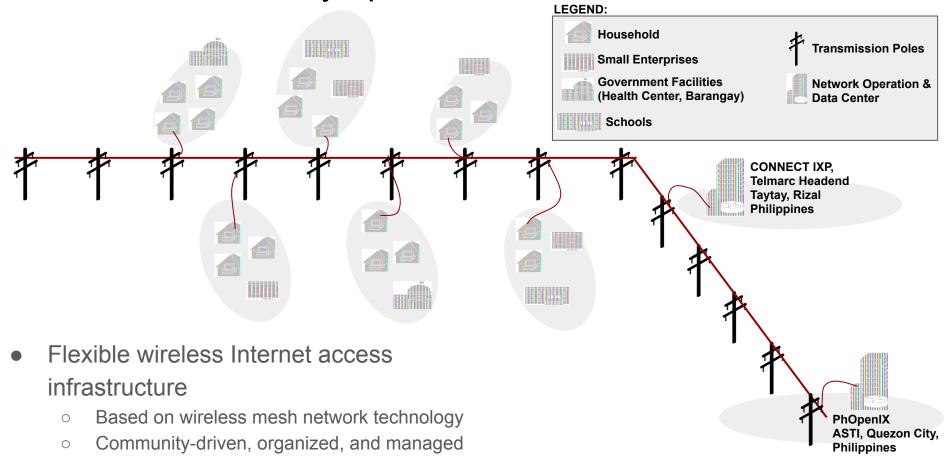




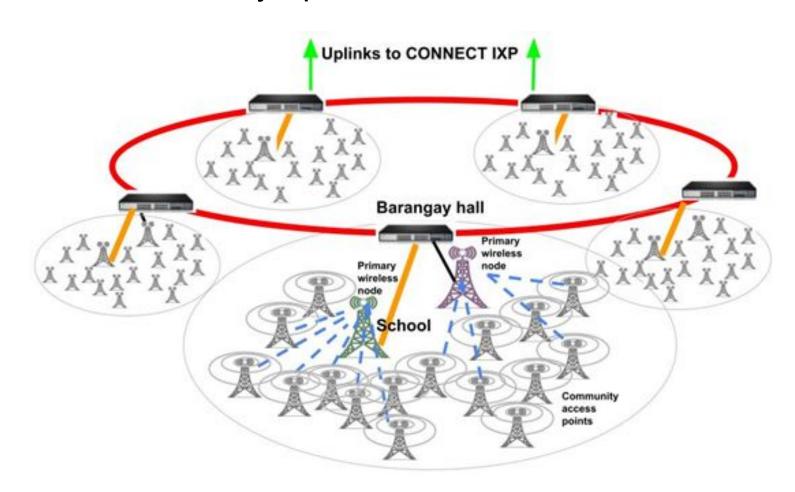
### Three IXPs are better than one!



### CO-OWN: Community-operated Wireless Networks



### CO-OWN: Community-operated Wireless Networks



#### **CONNECT Network Architecture** APAN **High-Level Design** International R & E Networks **CONNECT Service Project Area** Binangonan, Rizal, Philippines PREGINET **Target Community #1 Target Community #2 Target Community #3 Target Community #N** SKYCABLE **PhOpenIX Site UP-EEEI** ASTI, Quezon City, Philippines **Operator CONNECT Equipment** Cable LEGEND: **CONNECT Site CONNECT Fiber Optic Cable Network** Operator **CONNECT Wireless TELMARC** Headend **Access Backbone Network CONNECT Target Beneficiaries** Maharlika Hills, Taytay, Rizal, Philippines

CONNECT

**Beneficiaries** 

**Target**